

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims is as follows:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A device for binding a boot to a sports article, wherein the boot comprises a sole, the sole having a front anchor and a rear anchor located rearwardly of the front anchor, said device comprising:

a linkage element member movable with respect to the sports article between a low position and a high position;

the linkage element member comprising a front retaining system and a rear retaining system;

wherein the front and rear retaining systems cooperate respectively with the front and rear anchors of the sole for removably fastening the sole of the boot to the linkage member; and

wherein the front retaining system can be opened to allow an unfastening of the boot from the device.

Claim 2. (*Original*) A device according to claim 1, wherein the front retaining system comprises an actuating member, said actuating member can actuate the front retaining system towards an open position.

Claim 3. (*Original*) A device according to claim 1, wherein the front retaining system is an automatic engagement system for automatically engaging the boot.

Claim 4. (*Original*) A device according to claim 1, wherein the rear retaining system allows for the disengagement of the rear anchor of the boot when the front anchor is disengaged from the front retaining system.

Claim 5. (*Original*) A device according to claim 1, wherein the front retaining system comprises a latch that is articulated on the linkage member.

Claim 6. (*Original*) A device according to claim 1, wherein the front retaining system is biased to a latching position by a spring element.

Claim 7. (*Original*) A device according to claim 6, wherein the front retaining system comprises a retracting ramp due to which the front retaining system is retracted to an opening position when the boot is supported on the ramp.

Claim 8. (*Original*) A device according to claim 1, wherein the rear retaining system comprises a hook slidingly mounted on the linkage member.

Claim 9. (*Original*) A device according to one of claim 1, wherein the rear retaining system is biased to a retaining position by a spring element.

Claim 10. (*Original*) A device according to claim 1, wherein the rear retaining system has an automatic engagement.

Claim 11. (*Original*) A device according to claim 1, wherein the linkage member is connected to the sports article by at least one connecting rod.

Claim 12. (*Original*) A device according to claim 1, wherein the linkage member takes support on the sports article by a convex surface, and wherein, when the linkage member is displaced between its high and low positions, the linkage member effects a rolling movement that slides with respect to the sports article.

Claim 13. (*Currently Amended*) A device according to claim 1, wherein the linkage member is articulated with respect to the sports article about a stationary transverse ~~axle~~ axis.

Claim 14. (*Original*) A device according to claim 1 in combination with the boot.

Claim 15. (*Original*) A device in combination with the boot according to claim 14, wherein the sole of the boot is flexible.

Claim 16. (*Original*) A device in combination with the boot according to claim 14, wherein the rear anchor of the boot sole is located in the area of or in front of a metatarsophalangeal bending zone of the boot sole.

Claim 17. (*New*) A fastening and unfastening device for removably connecting a boot to a sports article to be used during practice of a sport, the boot including a front anchor and a rear anchor, said device comprising:

a linkage member adapted to be movably mounted with respect to the sports article between a low position and a high position as a user of the sports article practices said sport;

the linkage member comprising a front retaining system and a rear retaining system;

the front and rear retaining systems being adapted to cooperate respectively with the front and rear anchors of the boot for removably fastening the boot to the linkage member; and

the front retaining system comprising a latch biased to a fastened position for fastening the front anchor of the boot to the device.

Claim 18. (*New*) A device according to claim 17, wherein the front retaining system further comprises an actuating member, said actuating member being manipulable by the user to move the jaw towards an open position.

Claim 19. (*New*) A device according to claim 17, wherein the front retaining system comprises an elastic return member for biasing of said latch to said fastened position.

Claim 20. (*New*) A device according to claim 17, further comprising a base adapted to be fixed against movement on the sports article, said linkage member being movably mounted on said base between said low and high positions